

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05276 010040Z

64

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

OIC-04 COA-02 DLOS-06 SCI-06 COME-00 INT-08 NSF-04

NAS-01 AEC-11 CEQ-02 EPA-04 HEW-08 EB-11 DRC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 /251 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1670

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TEGN, UN

SUBJ: AGENDA ITEM 103: UN SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON
EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION (UNSCEAR)

1. SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE ME BRIEFLY 30 NOV. TO CONSIDER
REPORT ON UNSCEAR. PERU INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTION
A/SPC/L.296 (TEXT TRANSMITTED DEPT. SEPTTEL) CALLING FOR EXPANSION
IN MEMBERSHIP OF UNSCEAR FROM 15 TO 20 SCIENTISTS WITH ADDITIONAL
MEMBERS BEING CHOSEN ON BASIS OF GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.
PERUVIAN STATEMENT CONCENTRATED ON NEED TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY
OF UNSCEAR. ECUADOR, CO-SPONSOR OF DRAFT RES., SUPPORTED PERUVIAN
STATEMENT ON ECUADOR WOULD WELCOME THE APPOINTMENT OF SCIENTISTS
TO UNSCEAR FROM FIELDS SUCH AS ECOLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY,
AS WELL AS THE NUCLEAR SCIENCES. BRAZIL, COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA,
GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, URUGUAY AND CHILE SUPPORTED DRAFT RES.
AND ASKED TO BE LISTED AS CO-SPONSORS.

2. ONLY DISCORDANT NOTE SOUNDED BY FRENCH WHO COULD NOT
SUPPORT DRAFT RES BECAUSE (1) MEMBERS OF UNSCEAR NOT CONSULTED
ON THESE CHANGES; AND (2) LANGUAGE OF PREAMBULAR PARAS
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PAGE 02 USUN N 05276 010040Z

OBJECTIONABLE.

3. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING AT WHICH TIME A VOTE WILL PRESUMABLY BE TAKEN ON THREE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED UNDER THIS ITEM, A/SPC/L.294 295 AND 296 (ALL TEXTS TRANSMITTED SEPTEL).

4. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT L.294 SPONSORED BY AUSTRALIA AND OTHERS WILL PROBABLY BE ADOPTED BY LARGE MAJORITY; L.295 SPONSORED BY FRANCE DEFEATED; AND L.296 SPONSORED PRIMARILY BY LA'S ADOPTED WITH A FEW NEGATIVE VOTES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UK WILL ABSTAIN ON L.294, SUPPORT FRANCE ON L. 295, AND VOTE NO ON L.296. SOVIETS TOLD US THEY WILL SUPPORT L.294, ARE WORKING WITH FRENCH ON CHANGES IN TEXT OF L. 295, AND WILL ABSTAIN ON L. 296. (SOVIET REP TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY DISAGREE WITH SUBSTANCE OF L.296, IT IS CERTAIN TO BE ADOPTED SO THEY WILL NOT VOTE AGAINST.)

5. US DEL PROPOSES FOLLOWING POSITION: (1) ABSTAIN WITHOUT EXPLANATION ON L.294; (2) ABSTAIN WITHOUT EXPLANATION ON L. 295; (3) ABSTAIN ON L.296 EXPLAINING BEFOREHAND THAT ALTHOUGH US UNDERSTANDS POSITION OF CO-SPONSORS AND IS STRONG SUPPORTER OF UNSCEAR'S WORK, WE CAN NOT SUPPORT A CHANGE IN THE COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WITHOUT CAREFUL STUDY OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A CHANGE. WE BELIEVE PRECIPITATE ACTION MAY WEAKEN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RATHER THAN STRENGTHEN IT. IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER IN OUR OPINION TO POSTPONE ANY CHANGE UNTIL THE NEXT SESSION OF THE GA IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR STUDY OF THE PROPOSAL BY THE SYG, GOVERNMENTS AND THE MEMBERS OF UNSCEAR.

6. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT FRENCH AND AUSTRALIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO COMBINE TEXTS OF L. 294 AND L. 295 TO PRODUCE RES ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. IN VIEW OF STRONG POSITION OF AUSTRALIA AND ITS CO-SPONSORS IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE WILLING TO CONCEDE ENOUGH TO MAKE RES ACCEPTABLE TO FRENCH.

7. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS SOONEST.

8. SUBSEQUENT TO ABOVE UK HAS INFORMED US THEY WILL JOIN EC9 AND ABSTAIN ON L. 296.

BENNETT

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PAGE 03 USUN N 05276 010040Z

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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